



MHA
Michigan Health &
Hospital Association



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

Nov. 12, 2015

Dear Michigan Hospital CEO:

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Michigan Health & Hospital Association (MHA) strongly encourage hospitals to ensure healthcare personnel (HCP) are vaccinated to protect patients, staff and visitors from influenza and pertussis. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [has recommended](#) since 1984 that all HCP receive an annual flu vaccination and has advised since 2005 that they receive a single dose of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

In 2013, MDHHS surveyed Michigan acute care hospitals to determine how many had mandatory HCP influenza and Tdap vaccination policies in place. All 164 hospitals completed the survey. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of hospitals reported having a mandatory influenza vaccination policy for all HCP. Hospitals with mandatory flu vaccination policies have been shown to have higher HCP flu vaccination coverage in Michigan and nationally. Mandatory Tdap vaccination policies were in place for at least some HCP at 29 percent of hospitals in 2013. MDHHS plans to conduct a follow-up survey in the future to measure hospitals' progress with implementing HCP mandatory vaccination policies, HCP vaccination coverage levels, and the use of the [Michigan Care Improvement Registry](#) (MCIR) for documenting vaccines administered to HCP and patients in the hospital setting.

A Joint Commission standard [took effect July 1, 2012](#), requiring all healthcare organizations accredited by The Joint Commission to establish an annual influenza vaccination program for licensed independent practitioners and staff. In addition, the 2013-2014 influenza season was the first season that acute care hospitals were required to report [HCP influenza vaccination rates](#) via CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) as a condition for receiving full annual payment updates for services to Medicaid and Medicare beneficiaries during the entire flu season. CDC [published](#) these data in a *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* in September 2014. Hospitals' HCP flu vaccination rates are now also publicly available on CMS' [Hospital Compare](#) website.

According to HCP influenza vaccination data reported to NHSN for the period October 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015, the proportion of hospital-based HCP in Michigan who reported influenza vaccination was 83.6 percent, just below the U.S. at 84.5 percent. While Michigan has been on par with national hospital HCP flu vaccination, we have been well below the [Healthy People 2020 target](#) of 90 percent.

Because of the strong evidence of the value of vaccinating HCP against influenza and pertussis, MDHHS and MHA continue to encourage this practice. Hospital CEOs can significantly decrease the risk of influenza and pertussis in their facilities by ensuring hospital staff receive recommended vaccinations as outlined by best-practice guidelines. Also make sure that hospital staff are using MCIR to determine immunization status and document any vaccination administered to HCP or to patients.

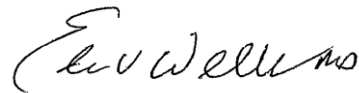
Please protect your patients and staff from flu and pertussis; HCP of all ages should be up-to-date with influenza and Tdap vaccination. Updated talking points regarding HCP vaccination for [influenza](#) and [pertussis](#) and sample policies for [influenza](#) and immunizations in general, including [Tdap](#), are [available](#) to assist in reviewing your facility's current vaccination policies and taking action.

For questions on available resources or materials, contact Stefanie Cole, RN, MPH, Influenza Epidemiologist with the MDHHS Division of Immunization, at (517) 335-3385. All other MHA-member questions should be directed to Sam R. Watson at the MHA at (517) 323-3443.

Sincerely,



Brian Peters
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan Health & Hospital Association



Eden Wells, MD, MPH, FACPM
Chief Medical Executive
Michigan Department of Health and
Human Services